

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A gateway for providing consumer services comprising:

5 a secure partition associated with a gateway and operable to control access to at least one utility service and a bundle associated with the secure partition;

a consumer service associated with the secure partition;

10 an application programmer interface (API) bundle associated with the secure partition and providing at least one support function to the consumer service;

a provisioning service associated with the secure partition and the API bundle, the provisioning service operable to install the consumer service;

15 a billing service associated with the secure partition and the API bundle, the billing service operable to provide billing capabilities to the consumer service;

a profile service associated with the secure partition and the API bundle, the profile service operable to store a user profile;

20 an authentication service associated with the secure partition and the API bundle, the authentication service operable to authorize a user associated with the gateway;

25 a remote-logging service associated with the secure partition and the API bundle, the remote-logging service operable to log an event associated with the consumer service; and

a maintenance service associated with the secure partition and the API bundle, the maintenance service

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operable to determine a network status associated with the gateway.

2. The gateway for providing consumer services according to Claim 1, wherein the provisioning service is further operable to:

receive a request from the consumer service; and
update the consumer service based on the request.

3. The gateway for providing consumer services according to Claim 1, wherein the billing service is further operable to:

receive a request from the consumer service;
bill the user in response to the request.

4. The gateway for providing consumer services according to Claim 1, wherein the profile service is further operable to:

receive a request from the consumer service; and
retrieve user preference information from the user profile based on the request.

5. The gateway for providing consumer services according to Claim 4, wherein the consumer service is operable to:

receive the user preference information from the profile service; and

customize functionality associated with the consumer service based on the user preference information.

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6. The gateway for providing consumer services according to Claim 1, wherein the authentication service is further operable to:

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receive a request from the consumer service;
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5 determine whether the user may access the consumer
service; and

communicate an authentication result associated with the determination to the consumer service.

7. The gateway for providing consumer services according to Claim 6, wherein the consumer service is operable to:

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    receive the authentication result from the
authentication service;

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deny access to the consumer service when the authentication result indicates that the user is not authorized to access the consumer service; and

grant access to the consumer service when the authentication result indicates that the user is authorized to access the consumer service.

8. The gateway for providing consumer services according to Claim 1, wherein the remote logging service is further operable to:

receive a request from the consumer service; and

5 store events associated with the consumer service
 based on the request.

9. The gateway for providing consumer services according to Claim 1, wherein the maintenance service is further operable to:

receive a request from the consumer service;

5 determine the network status based on a network connection associated with the gateway; and

communicate the network status to the consumer service.

10. The gateway for providing consumer services according to Claim 1, wherein the support functions comprise user interface support functions.

11. The gateway for providing consumer services according to Claim 1, wherein the consumer service comprises a monthly subscription service.

12. A method for providing consumer services at a gateway comprising:

controlling access between at least one service associated with a secure partition;

5 providing a consumer service associated with the secure partition;

providing at least one support function to the consumer service by an application programmer interface (API) bundle associated with the secure partition;

10 installing the consumer service by a provisioning service associated with the secure partition and the API bundle;

billing a user by a billing service associated with the secure partition and the API bundle;

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15 storing a user profile associated with a user by a
profile service associated with the secure partition and
the API bundle;

authenticating the user by an authentication service
associated with the secure partition and the API bundle;

20 logging an event associated with the consumer service
by a remote-logging service associated with the secure
partition and the API bundle; and

determining a network status associated with a gateway
by a maintenance service associated with the secure
25 partition and the API bundle.

13. The method for providing consumer services at a
gateway according to Claim 12, wherein installing the
consumer service further comprises:

receiving a request from the consumer service; and
5 updating the consumer service based on the request.

14. The method for providing consumer services at a
gateway according to Claim 12, wherein billing the user
comprises:

receiving a request from the consumer service;
5 billing the user based on the request and the consumer
service.

15. The method for providing consumer services at a
gateway according to Claim 12 and further comprising:

receiving a request from the consumer service; and
retrieving user preference information from the user
5 profile based on the request.

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16. The method for providing consumer services at a gateway according to Claim 15 and further comprising:

receiving the user preference information from the profile service at the consumer service; and

5 modifying functionality associated with the consumer
service based on the user preference information.

17. The method for providing consumer services at a gateway according to Claim 12, wherein authenticating the user further comprises:

receiving a request from the consumer service;

5 determining whether the user may access the consumer
service; and

communicating an authentication result based on the determination to the consumer service.

18. The method for providing consumer services at a gateway according to Claim 17 and further comprising:

receiving the authentication result from the authentication service at the consumer service;

denying access to the consumer service when the authentication result indicates that the user is not authorized to access the consumer service; and

granting access to the consumer service when the authentication result indicates that the user is authorized to access the consumer service.

19. The method for providing consumer services at a gateway according to Claim 12, wherein logging events further comprises:

receiving a request from the consumer service; and

- 5 storing events associated with the consumer service based on the request.

20. The method for providing consumer services at a gateway according to Claim 12, wherein determining the network status comprises:

- receiving a request from the consumer service;
- 5 determining the network status based on a network connection associated with the gateway; and
- communicating the network status to the consumer service.

21. The method for providing consumer services at a gateway according to Claim 12, wherein the support functions comprise user interface support functions.

22. The method for providing consumer services at a gateway according to Claim 12, wherein the consumer service comprises a monthly subscription service.

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